



Oneida County Health Department

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The Oneida County Health Department has received **three** reports of dead crow/blue jays testing positive for West Nile virus. Testing has now been discontinued on a regular basis, but telephone reports of sick or dead crows, blue jays, or ravens should still be called into the Dead Bird Reporting Hotline at 1-800-433-1610.

“The three positive birds means that Oneida County Health Department will not need to collect any more birds for the 2006 season, but residents must remain vigilant in their personal protective measures to prevent mosquito bites,” states Chrystal Woller, Deputy Health Officer/ Assistant Public Health Director said.

West Nile Virus is spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes get the virus by feeding on infected birds.

The Oneida County Health Department continues to recommend the following:

- Maintain window screens in good repair to decrease indoor contact with mosquitoes
- Avoid being outside during times of high mosquito activity, specifically around dawn and dusk
- Wear light colored protective clothing such as long pants, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and tuck pants in socks when outdoors
- When outdoors, consider using an effective mosquito repellent containing an active ingredient registered by the EPA, such as DEET , picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Do not provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes—remove containers, old tires and any objects where water can collect and mosquitoes can lay eggs.

The majority of people (80%) who are infected with West Nile Virus do not get sick. Those who do become ill usually experience mild symptoms such as fever, headache, or rash. Less than 1% of people infected with the virus get seriously ill.

This mosquito season, 2 humans have been identified with West Nile virus in Wisconsin. More information about West Nile virus is available on the Internet at:

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/WestNileVirus/>

*Oneida County Health Department will promote and protect the health of
Oneida County by providing leadership, education and services.*